

THE EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST PROJECT (EDLE 680V) IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Specialist Project represents the culmination of an approved program of studies completed at the post-master's level under the direction of a faculty advisor and an advisory committee. It should be completed and presented for oral defense during the last academic term in which course work for the degree is taken.

Three hours of credit is awarded for the successful drafting and defending of the Project. Since it is a significant academic undertaking, the Project requires a corresponding investment of time. A student is expected to expend a minimum of 45 hours for each semester hour of credit received, or a minimum preparation time approximately equivalent to 135 work hours.

The topic selected should bear some significant relationship to the students' field of study and area(s) of professional interest. Examples of appropriate projects might include:

- the design, execution, and written description of an "action research" project in a school or district setting, preferably dealing with a "real-life" issue, trend, or problem confronting "real-world" school administrators;
- preparation and submission of an article for publication in a refereed professional journal;
- development of an original or "customized" computer-based program designed to facilitate some aspect of educational administrative or managerial decision-making relative to a particular task or assignment;
- preparation and delivery of a formal presentation at a state, regional, or national professional conference (of original work);
- assumption of a leadership role in some significant institutional change project and written analysis/documentation of that role as a case study; and,
- preparation of a topical annotated bibliography or a formal paper integrating and analyzing the literature on a professionally relevant topic which, if published by ERIC, would represent a significant contribution to a field of study.

A typical structure for a paper might include the following: (1) Introduction; (2) Statement of the problem and its importance; (3) Review of pertinent literature; (4) Methodology; (5) Data analysis; and, (6) Conclusions and Recommendations.

Formal approval of a Project topic must be secured in advance from all members of a student's advisory committee.

Upon completion of the Project, the student must successfully pass an oral evaluation of the report or paper.

The completed Project must bear a title page and include an abstract (not to exceed 400 words in length). A file copy **must** be submitted to the Office of the Associate Dean of the College.